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**REMARKS BY U.S. AMBASSADOR JAMES F. MORIARTY  
AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY FOR THE  
USG'S \$80 MILLION CYCLONE SIDR  
RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

**BARISAL, APRIL 25 --** Following is the text of remarks by Ambassador James F. Moriarty at the launching ceremony for the USG's \$80 million cyclone Sidr reconstruction program in Barisal on April 25.

(Begin text)

Assalam-u-Alaikum and good morning. Madam Minister, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to be with us today for this very special occasion. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman: thank you for joining us today. I am delighted to be here to officially launch the United States Government's efforts to assist Bangladesh with long-term reconstruction in the Cyclone Sidr-affected area.

I was here just a few months ago during our America Week activities. I spoke with many of you about the success of our joint efforts during the relief and recovery phases in the aftermath of Cyclone Sidr. The United States has long been a friend and development partner to Bangladesh. When Cyclone Sidr struck, the United States Government immediately provided \$36.5 million in emergency food assistance and other emergency relief activities. But even as we were delivering those emergency supplies, the United States Government made an additional commitment to do more.

The United States Government has now provided an additional \$80 million for cyclone reconstruction assistance. Today, we open the Improved Livelihoods for Sidr Affected Rice Farmers Project implemented by our partner, the International Fertilizer Development Corporation (IFDC). This particular reconstruction project will help 280,000 farm families—more than 1.4 million people—rebuild lives that were devastated by Cyclone Sidr.

IFDC's project is one of six projects that the U.S. Government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will be funding in Sidr-affected areas to increase incomes, provide more food, and raise healthier children. We will also construct cyclone shelters that will be used as primary schools, and provide water and sanitation facilities.

The focus of United States assistance is to stimulate economic recovery and to build back even better. These reconstruction programs are designed to increase agricultural production and increase farmers' income. But it's not just about increasing production. It's about doing it in a more efficient and cost-effective way.

The project that we are launching today will provide 280,000 farm families with a new fertilizer technology that uses two-thirds less fertilizer than traditional methods. This will increase each farmer's net income per harvest by \$80—an increase of \$22 million this year alone. The project will also save approximately 13,000 metric tons of fertilizer. That's not just more cost effective and more productive, it's better for the environment. As President Obama said, "we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow." The project we are launching here today will do just that.

Since Bangladesh's independence, the United States Government has provided more than \$5 billion in development assistance. With this additional funding, we continue to work alongside you during this reconstruction phase in the Sidr-affected areas. We look forward to our partnership throughout the country to achieve our common goals: democracy, development, and denial of space to extremism.

Thank you for joining me this morning. And thank you for your hard work and contribution to the reconstruction process. I wish you every success in achieving a brighter, stronger Bangladesh for your children.

(End text)

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*\*As prepared for delivery*

**GR/2009**